

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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EUR-12 SAM-01 DLOS-04 /079 W
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R 080230Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1672

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6553

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ASEAN ID MY

SUBJ: FORTHCOMING RAZAK-SUHARTO MEETING

REF: A) JAKARTA 12833 (NOTAL) B) JAKARTA 13604 (NOTAL)

1. MALAYSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED NOV 3 THAT AT
INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S INVITATION PRIME MINISTER TUN ABDUL
RAZAK WILL MAKE A THREE DAY VISIT TO MEDAN NOV 15-17 FOR AN
"INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST."
RAZAK'S PARTY WILL INCLUDE FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN AND SENIOR
MFA OFFICIALS.

2. ACCORDING TO MALAYSIAN NATIONAL WIRE SERVICE (BERNAMA) REPORT
CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS NOV 5 TALKS ARE LIKELY TO FOCUS
ON "MAJOR EXPANSION OF MALAYSIAN-INDONESIAN DEFENSE COOPERATION
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TO MEET THE GROWING INTERNAL COMMUNIST TERRORIST THREAT."
MFA UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS, YUSOF HITAM,

WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT RAZAK WOULD BRIEF SUHARTO ON HIS RECENT VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S VIEWS ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR ISSUE. IN THIS REGARD, SUHARTO WAS EXPECTED IN TURN TO BRIEF RAZAK ON RECENTLY CONCLUDED TALKS IN ROME BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND HIS PORTUGUESE COUNTERPART. MEETING WOULD AFFORD TWO LEADERS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA AND FUTURE RELATIONS OF INDOCHINA STATES WITH OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED ASEAN SUMMIT. YUSOF HITAM ADDED THAT MEDAN TALKS WOULD EMPHASIZE GENERAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA.

3. BERNAMA ALSO CITED UNIDENTIFIED "INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING BORDER SECURITY COOPERATION INTO "GENERAL SYNCHRONIZATION" OF THE TWO NATIONS' DEFENSE AND SECURITY SYSTEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED, IN ADDITION TO EXPANSION OF RECIPROCAL USE OF EACH OTHERS MILITARY TRAINING FACILITIES, HOLDING MORE JOINT EXERCISES, AND INCREASING COMPATIBILITY OF THEIR ARMENTS SYSTEMS. POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING DEFENSE TIES TO OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS ALSO WOULD BE RAISED. SAME SOURCES REPORTEDLY STRESSED SUCH COOPERATION NOT AIMED AGAINST ANY THIRD COUNTRY BUT RATHER WOULD REFLECT INTERNAL SECURITY CONCERNS OF BOTH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. CONSIDERATION ALSO WOULD BE GIVEN TO POLICE COOPERATION WITH INDOCHINESE NATIONS TO COMBAT SMUGGLING.

4. COMMENT: INDONESIA IS PERHAPS MALAYSIA'S CLOSEST FRIEND AND ALLY AND THERE ARE MANY SUBJECTS THAT COULD PRODUCTIVELY BE DISCUSSED BY THE TWO HEADS OF STATE. MALAYSIA, FOR EXAMPLE, STRONGLY ADVOCATES ACTION TO INDUCE NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM TO JOIN ASEAN WHILE INDONESIA AND THE OTHER ASEAN NATIONS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE WARY. MALAYSIA ALSO IS HIGHLY RESISTANT TO THE IDEA OF EXPANDING ASEAN SECURITY COOPERATION FOR FEAR OF AROUSING BOTH THE PRC AND HANOI, ALTHOUGH IT WANTS BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH INDONESIA AND THAILAND. WITH REGARD TO INTRA-ASEAN RELATIONS, TUN RAZAK HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN POSTPONING AN ASEAN SUMMIT FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE BELIEVE THIS IS BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WANT TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS (WHOM HE MISTRUSTS) NOR RISK PRESSURE FROM THE OTHER
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FOUR COUNTRIES TO ELIMINATE ASSISTANCE TO THE MUSLIM REBELS IN THE PHILIPPINES. THEREFORE, HE WAS NOT, WE ARE RELIABLE INFORMED, PLEASED BY THE SUHARTO-LEE COMMUNIQUE FROM BALI AND IS LIKELY, WE BELIEVE, TO CONTINUE TO HUNT FOR WAYS TO PUSH THE SUMMIT INTO THE FUTURE WHENEVER IT SEEMS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT. FURTHERMORE, FROM THE GOM POINT OF VIEW THERE STILL IS AN UNRESOLVED LOS PROBLEM REGARDING PASSAGE TO SARAWAK THROUGH NATUNA ISLAND IN THE CONTEXT OF INDONESIA'S SUPPORT FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT WHILE THE GOM INSISTS ON INTERNATIONALLY SANCTIONED RIGHT OF PASSAGE.

FROM THE INDONESIAN POINT OF VIEW SUHARTO IS LIKELY TO TRY TO
DRAW THE TUN OUT ON GOM STEPS TO COUNTER THE RESURGENCE OF
COMMUNIST TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN MALAYSIA, AS THE
INDONESIANS APPEAR TO HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT MALAYSIA'S
FAILURE TO CONCILIATE ITS LARGE CHINESE POPULATION IN ORDER
TO WEAKEN POTENTIAL SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNISTS.
ALL-IN-ALL THERE IS SCOPE FOR A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE
EXCHANGE.
UNDERHILL

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